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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the applications:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1.   (Currently Amended) A method for providing a conferencing session over a packetized network, comprising:

receiving inputs from a number of participants in the conferencing session over the packetized network;

determining a number of prominent inputs from the received inputs;

combining the determined prominent inputs into a first output stream suitable for being sent to at least one participant of the number of participants in the conferencing session; and

combining determined prominent inputs into a second output stream for an originating participant of a prominent input of the determined number of prominent inputs, the second output stream not including the originating participant's input.

2.   (Original) The method as described in claim 1, wherein inputs are determined as prominent based upon a characteristic including at least one of loudness, signal strength, clarity and prominence history.

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Previously Presented) The method as described in claim 1, further comprising sending the first output stream to participants which did not originate a prominent output and sending the second output stream to the participant originating the prominent input not included in the second output stream.

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5.   (Previously Presented) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the second output stream includes a next most prominent received input.

6.   (Original) The method as described in claim 5, wherein the next most prominent received input is determined by a characteristic different than the characteristic utilized to determine the number of prominent inputs from the received inputs.

7.   (Original) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the number of prominent inputs to be determined is pre-selected.

8.   (Original) The method as described in claim 1, wherein determining the prominent inputs includes determining if an input corresponds to a desired characteristic threshold.

9.   (Original) The method as described in claim 1, wherein the conferencing session is utilized over a packetized system so that at least one of the received inputs and output stream are configured as packets.

10.   (Currently Amended) A method for providing a conferencing session over a packetized network, comprising:

    receiving inputs from a number of participants in the conferencing session over the packetized network;

    determining a number of prominent inputs from the received inputs, the inputs being determined as prominent based upon a characteristic including at least one of loudness, signal strength, clarity, and prominence history; and

    combining received inputs into an output stream for an originating participant of an input of the received inputs, the output stream not including the

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originating participant's input and including a next most prominent received input.

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Canceled)

13.   (Canceled)

14.   (Previously Presented) The method as described in claim 10, wherein the next most prominent received input is determined by a characteristic different than the characteristic utilized to determine the number of prominent inputs from the received inputs.

15.   (Previously Presented) The method as described in claim 10, wherein the number of prominent inputs to be determined is pre-selected.

16.   (Previously Presented) The method as described in claim 10, wherein determining the prominent inputs includes determining if an input corresponds to a desired characteristic threshold.

17.   (Original) The method as described in claim 10, wherein the conferencing session is utilized over a packetized system so that at least one of the received inputs and outputs are configured as packetized streams.

18.   (Previously Presented) A conferencing system suitable for providing a conferencing session to a plurality of participants, comprising:
        a multipoint conferencing unit communicatively coupled over a packetized
                connection to a plurality of input/output devices so as to enable the

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participants of the conferencing session to interact, wherein the multipoint conferencing unit is configured to

>> receive inputs from the participants in the conferencing session;

>> determine a number of prominent inputs from the received inputs;

>> combine the determined prominent inputs into a first output stream suitable for being sent to at least one participant of the conferencing session; and

>> combine the determined prominent inputs into a second output stream for an originating participant of a prominent input of the determined number of prominent inputs, the second output stream not including the originating participant's input.

19. (Original) The conferencing system as described in claim 18, wherein inputs are determined as prominent based upon a characteristic including at least one of loudness, signal strength, clarity and prominence history.

20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The conferencing system as described in claim 18, wherein the first output stream is sent to participants which did not originate a prominent output and the second output stream is sent to the participant originating the prominent input not included in the second output stream.

22. (Previously Presented) The conferencing system as described in claim 18, wherein the second output stream includes a next prominent received input.

23. (Original) The conferencing system as described in claim 22, wherein the next prominent received input is determined by a characteristic different than the

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characteristic utilized to determine the number of prominent inputs from the received inputs.

24.   (Original) The conferencing system as described in claim 18, wherein the number of prominent inputs to be determined is pre-selected.

25.   (Original) The conferencing system as described in claim 18, wherein determining the prominent inputs includes determining if an input corresponds to a desired characteristic threshold.

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